

LEAD PICTURE BY RALPH WININGHAM

RALPH WININGHAM REPORTS FROM THIS YEAR'S
NATIONALS AT SAN ANTONIO

A NATIONAL CELEBRATION

ANDY DUFFY WITH (FROM RIGHT)
DEEANN MASSEY AND DEBORAH WALL



EVEN THE WEATHER SEEMED TO BE VYING FOR RECORD-BOOK ATTENTION, WITH SUNNY BUT SLIGHTLY COOLER THAN NORMAL TEMPERATURES FOR THE FIRST THREE DAYS OF THE MAIN EVENT.



Attaching a 'historic' label to the 2002 NSCA National Championship in San Antonio on September 11-15th would be an understatement of magnum proportions! Not only did Andy Duffy top a record field of 1,205 shooters to claim an unprecedented third high-overall title but 18-year-old Anthony Matarese Jr. completed a similar hat trick in the Juniors by winning his third such title in the past four years.

If those two outstanding performances weren't enough to take your breath away, a few other footnotes for the record books include:

- A stellar performance by Socrates Pilipasidis of Australia, who tied Duffy's HOA score of 280

to win the International Championship and put the mark of the man from down under on the FITASC event with his incredible HOA score of 98.

- Lady Champion Diane S. Nelson of Florida claimed her title by a four-target margin and also took home the top Lady trophies in the Five-Stand and FITASC events – all while struggling to shrug off the symptoms of a cold.

Even the weather seemed to be vying for record-book attention, with sunny but slightly cooler than normal temperatures for the first three days of the main event. Early morning

showers dampened the final day, but there were no high winds at any time and even final day squads were able to compete under cloudy skies and unseasonably mild temperatures.

TOP COMPETITION

Prior to the Main Event the Small Gauge events, FITASC, Five-Stand and Krieghoff Kup were in full swing. Clearly on outstanding form, Doug Fuller was to record HOA in all three Small Gauge events – 20 gauge (96/100) one target clear of both Brian Hughes (RU) and Mike O'Brien (third); 28 gauge (97/100) two ahead of Harvey Holder (RU) and four targets clear of Greg Oliver (third) and the .410 event (96/100) three ahead of Brian Hughes.

Over on the Krieghoff Kup, a ten station 100 target event, Robbie

Purser was setting the early pace with 97/100 but late charges from Doug Fuller and Junior Cory Kruse (both on 98/100) meant that Purser had to be content with third spot. The Fuller and Kruse shoot-off was a nail-biting affair with Kruse taking the honors.

The 100 bird FITASC West Main Event, with 50 targets shot per day, was won by Socrates Pilipasidis of Australia with a confident 24, 24, 25 and 25 (98/100). Mick Howells (24, 24, 24, 25) took Runner-Up and Gregg Wolf (25, 23, 24, 23) maintained his form from the World

Dan Carlisle and Anthony Matarese found themselves locked together one off the pace (279) and would have to fight it out in a shoot-off. Winning the battle on the last station was Cherry, followed by Kruger. Carlisle took M1 and Matarese M2.

In the classes, competition was fierce with the leaderboard continually changing – but by the final day there were decisive wins in each class. Gary Weitzel (266) put a clear seven

(third) in the Ladies while in the Juniors, Matarese (279/300) and Kruse (275/300) were in a class of their own. Not unexpectedly, Connor Oman (250/300) took the honors in the Sub Juniors, not for the first time this year, 14 targets clear of Duke Riggs. Joe Cantey (274) brought his



INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION SOCRATES PILIPASIDIS.

PHOTO BY RALPH WINNICHAM

FITASC Championship to record a hard fought third (95/100) on the same score as Michael Nudd who won Masterclass.

As the days passed, all attention turned to the Main Event. Four courses (Red, Orange, Green and Yellow) made up the 300 target Championship and right from the word go it was clear that the winner would need to average 70 plus/75 on each course to take the HOA. Jon Kruger held top spot for two days before Pilipasidis headed him on the leaderboard by one target – but he was soon joined by Andy Duffy who put together a well constructed 70, 69, 72, 69 to equal his score. Wendell Cherry, Kruger,

targets between himself and Jerry Yoder in AA class and Allen Williams (254) won A class, three ahead of Ed Stiteler. B Class was much tighter, with Gordon Laramie (241) pipping Matthew Prestan by just one target. Steve Claunch (243) put on a masterly demonstration to win C class with a score that would have seen him win B class or come 10th in A class. Much the same could be said of D class Jeff Pate (244) who won his class by 16 targets! E class honors went to Wayne South (209).

In the concurrents, Diane Nelson (67, 58, 67, 63 – 255/300) was four clear of Deeann Massey (Runner-Up) and Casey Atkinson



ANDY DUFFY

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golden form back from Germany, winning Veterans by eight targets from Jerome Holden and a score that gave him M5. The Super Veterans was won by Gene Sears (256).

COMPETITIVE BUT FUN

Come Sunday evening at prize giving the broadest smile was that of Duffy – and in the words of the three-time high-overall Champion “this was a lot of fun. I thought these were good targets that were hard enough to separate the top



PHOTO BY RALPH WINNICHAM

JANET TAUSCH, WINNER OF THE LADIES KRIEGHOFF KUP.

shooters. I came here with a different purpose on my mind this time,” he said about his performance. “After winning my

titles (back to back HOA in 1994 and 1995) I had been coming here just to try to win again – and sometimes I didn't even finish in the top 25. This time, I just tried to make the best moves I could possibly make on the targets." A shooting coach operating out of Connecticut, Duffy shoots a Perazzi MX2000S over and under with 34-inch barrels, Briley chokes and Federal ammunition. "I used to shoot an incredible amount

team. He is also the 2001 Five-Stand Champion in his home country. This year was his first venture onto the NSCA home grounds for a National Championship and he said he was particularly pleased with his FITASC title. Concerning the main course targets, which he also handled in fine style, he said: "You really had to concentrate on the targets. If you missed one, you knew you couldn't make it up."

in a hidden curl, cause the targets to cross or something like that."

Another of the main course setters, Mike McAlpine of the San Angelo Gun Club, also has years of experience designing target presentations for major events. His targets were presented on the Yellow course in the main event and at the FITASC East course. "I normally set my course for a high of 95 per cent," said McAlpine. "These

SONYA SUTTON (LEFT) CAME UP FROM SOUTH CALIFORNIA TO WATCH DAUGHTER PRISCILLA (15) AT HER FIRST NATIONALS.



PHOTO BY RALPH WINNINGHAM



ABOVE: BRUCE HERRING GOES OVER SOME GROUND RULES WITH HIS REFEREES. RIGHT: JON KRUGER (CENTRE) DISCUSSES PROGRESS WITH DOUG FULLER (LEFT) AND SCOTT ROBERTSON (RIGHT).

PHOTO BY RALPH WINNINGHAM

of targets in the past. Now, I focus more on my mental game. The best competitors have to learn to shoot under pressure," he added. A check on his title-winning scores shows that he won this year's event with a 93 per cent average, topping his 92 per cent performance in 1994 and 90 per cent showing in 1995. Taking a light-hearted jab at Pilipasidis, whom he said he had competed against in the past, Duffy added that "it was really big of him not to beat me – that might have made this a hollow victory."

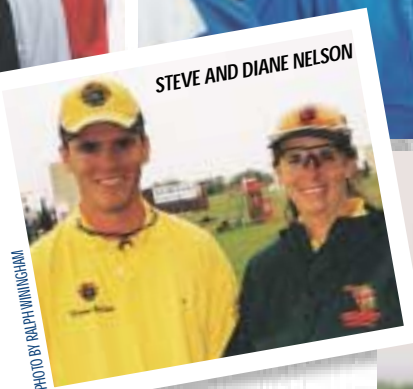
Awarded the International title, the Australian said he was visiting the area for a dove-hunting vacation and was talked into competing by his friends. "We've had some fantastic dove hunting. The birds helped me get my eye in – I was really dialling in on them and my form held for this important Championship." Pilipasidis is a Winchester representative and a seven-time member of the Australian national

The Australian's performance in the FITASC competition came as a surprise to Mo Parsons of NSCA Headquarters, who set both the FITASC West Course and the Red Course for the main event. "I try to set a course with a high score in mind of about 94 per cent, plus or minus about 2 per cent. I try to let all age groups shoot fairly, without any targets becoming a seeing game or eye test. A hard target is easy to set – you just put on a lot of speed and distance. But, I would rather use deception where the target appears to be doing something that it's not. You try to make the shooter perceive that it is a difficult target."

Pete Masch, also of NSCA headquarters and responsible for the Orange Course for the main event and the Five-Stand targets, agreed that deception was his goal, rather than distance or speed. "My targets simulate live bird flights, because that was what this sport was designed around. I just throw

are not 'gimme' courses, they have lots of deception. You don't have to beat up people to give them good targets. You have to set a course for everybody from the world class shooters to the club shooters. My goal is to show you something that you haven't seen before."

A quick look at this year's scores indicates that the various course setters were close to the mark. Of the 209 Master Class shooters, the scores of those that finished the course ranged from 280 to 197. Down through the classes the range of scores was: AA 266-196; A 254-179; B 241-165; C 243-139; D 244-112 and in E class 209-108.



STEVE AND DIANE NELSON

PHOTO BY RALPH WINNINGHAM

DOUG FULLER



BELOW: MIKE HAMPTON, NSSA/NSCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT AND WAS PRESENTED WITH A CHERRY RED EZ-GO CLAYS CART.



PHOTO BY RALPH WINNINGHAM

ROSEY FUTURE

The ongoing success of the top Juniors bodes well for the senior shooters of the future. With his score just one target off HOA, Junior Champion Matarese said his goal was to just keep working on the targets and he didn't give up if he missed one. "Overall, they were good targets for each class of shooter but it was the trap (style) birds that killed me a little," said the New Jersey youngster. He gave credit for his current performance to good coaching during the past three years from his mentor, Dan Carlisle, and his head-to-head competition against fellow Junior Cory Kruse, the Krieghoff Kup HOA. "We are good friends and we always try to do our best. If one of us can't win, we hope the other one does," he said. Carlisle, who coaches both youngsters, said that "they are both outstanding shooters and are just getting started - they are the new breed of Champions. They know how to play the game and they don't quit. Even if they shoot a 95, that is not good enough."

accomplishments achieved in those five September days at San Antonio, and few could argue against 2002 being tagged with a gold star in the record books.

PATRIOTIC MOMENT

A clear demonstration of patriotism and American pride began with a moment of silence at the beginning of the Championship on September 11th to pay tribute to the victims and heroes of last year's terrorist attacks. American flags of all sizes dotted the ground and red, white and blue were dominant colors on everything from hatpins and shirts to shotguns.

At the Saturday night party, NSSA/NSCA Executive Director Mike Hampton, announced that he was retiring "to spend more time shooting sporting clays" after being presented an EZ-Go Clays Cart for his contribution to shooting sports. Hampton, who has been executive director for 15 years, thanked everyone for their support and said he would be leaving his post at the end of October.



BELOW: ENTERTAINING THE CROWDS WAS A 16-MAN TOP GUN SHOOT-OUT. LEFT: WINNER WAS BOBBY FOWLER JNR (CENTRE), ROBBIE PURSER (LEFT) WAS RUNNER-UP AND SCOTT ROBERTSON THIRD.

Historic event? Certainly. Competitors and non-competitors alike stressed that participating at this event on the one-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks was one of the best ways to demonstrate patriotism and national pride.

That 'can-do' message from all 1205 competitors was sent loud and clear throughout the world. Toss in the shooting history



NSCA NATIONALS

SEPTEMBER 2002

20 GAUGE MAIN

HOA	DOUG FULLER	96
R/U	BRIAN HUGHES	95
3RD	MIKE O'BRIEN	95

28 GAUGE MAIN

HOA	DOUG FULLER	97
R/U	HARVEY HOLDEN	95
3RD	GREG OLIVER	93

.410 BORE MAIN

HOA	DOUG FULLER	96
2ND	BRIAN HUGHES	93
3RD	MONTIE SIMS	89

K-KUP MAIN

HOA	CORY KRUSE	98
R/U	DOUG FULLER	98
3RD	ROBERT PURSER	97

5-STAND

HOA	TOMMY BROWNING	98
R/U	STEVEN NELSON	97
3RD	SCOTT ROBERTSON	97

FITASC MAIN

HOA	SOCRATES PILIPASIDIS	98
R/U	MICK HOWELLS	97
3RD	GREGG WOLF	95

MAIN EVENT

HOA	ANDY DUFFY	280
R/U	WENDELL CHERRY	279
3RD	JON KRUGER	279
M1	DAN CARLSILE	279
M2	ANTHONY MATARESE	279
M3	WILL FENNEL	278
AA1	GARY WEITZEL	266

AA2	JERRY YODER	259
AA3	KEN NAIL	257
A1	ALLEN WILLIAMS	254
A2	ED STITELER	247
A3	RICK PEPIN	247
B1	GORDON LARAMIE	241
B2	MATTHEW PETERSEN	240
B3	JOSH TAYLOR	238
C1	STEVE CLAUNCH	243
C2	BRYAN LAWS	237
C3	DON PERRIN	230
D1	JEFF PATE	244
D2	TOBY KANDT	228
D3	JAY GREINER	225
E1	WAYNE SOUTH	209
E2	TERRY STEUCK	198
E3	SARAH DUNN	193
L HOA	DIANE NELSON	193
L R/U	DEEANN MASSEY	251
L 3RD	CASEY ATKINSON	251
J 1ST	ANTHONY MATARESE	279
J 2ND	CORY KRUSE	275
J 3RD	MIKE O'BRIEN	267
S/J 1ST	CONNOR OMAN	250
S/J 2ND	DUKE RIGGS	236
S/J 3RD	STEPHEN MURRAY	231
V HOA	JOE CANTEY	274
V R/U	JEROME HOLDEN	266
V 3RD	GONZALO VARGAS	265
SV HOA	GENE SEARS	256
SV R/U	LARRY MCINTIRE	248
SV 3RD	TROY PEAK	247